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T H E  
HISTORY

O F T H E  
FALL of Count Olivarez,

Sole Minister to *Philip IV.* King of *Spain.*

Wherein is set forth,

The Danger of entrusting to an **Ober-  
grown favourite**, the Welfare and Li-  
berties of a *Whole Nation*; by the Cala-  
mities of the *Spanish* Monarchy, and the  
Reduction of their Empire, which hap-  
pen'd under the Conduct of that Minister.

Faithfully collected from the best *Spanish* and  
*Italian* Authors; and Address'd to, and Calcu-  
lated for, a continual *Memento* to the Person  
to whom it can only belong.

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——— *Ambition is at Distance*

*A goodly Prospect, tempting to the View,  
The Height delights us, and the Mountain Top  
Looks beautiful, because 'tis nigh to Heaven:  
But we ne'er think how sandy's the Foundation,  
What Storms will batter, and what Tempests shake us! Orway,*

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L O N D O N:

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( Price One Shilling. )

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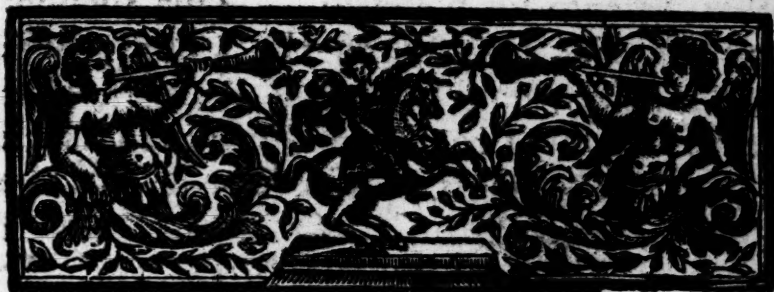
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T H E

## Fall of Count Olivarez.

**S**O Great was the Ascendant this Minister had over the King, that he thought himself Proof, not only against the open Attacks of his Enemies, but the secret Machinations of Envy and Emulation. Like an aged Oak, which had taken deep Root, he bid Defiance to all the Storms his Enemies could raise, and stood immoveably the King's *Sole Favourite*, for the Space of Twenty Two Years. It was not therefore without Reason, that the Count look'd down with Contempt on those who endeavoured to remove him, his Majesty having, from his Infancy, taken an Affection to his Person, and paid a Deference to those admirable

rable Talents he possess'd. This Inclination of his Majesty to the Count, was such a Mixture of Love and Respect, that the King himself could not distinguish which prevail'd the most. The Tenderness he express'd for him on all Occasions, was a Proof of his singular Affection; and the Care he took, in all Affairs, to do nothing that might displease him, spoke an equal Respect. This Minister, however, (to the great Dishonour of the Royal Dignity) made such Use of his Master's Favour, that the King had no Will but that of the Count, and by giving into this Excess, seem'd to invert the Law of Nature, and subject the Sovereign to the Vassal. Many Persons, and those too of the better Sort, who were no Strangers to his Majesty's excellent Endowments, did not think it possible, the Count could gain so great a Power over him by any ordinary, or known Methods, and therefore taxed him (tho' very unjustly, and with great Prejudice to the many excellent Virtues which even his Enemies would allow him) with infatuating his Majesty by Spells and diabolical Arts.

But this Great Man *fell at last*; and tho' the Misfortunes which happened to the *Spanish* Monarchy under his *Administration*, were the first Motives to his Disgrace, yet those unhappy Events were not imputed

ted to any *Want of Capacity* in him (for he seem'd destin'd, by his Admirable Strength of Judgment, for the Government of the Universe) but to a certain *Fatality*, which attended all he undertook, and overbore all his *Ability* with a Torrent of ill Fortune, and would have depriv'd him not of *One* only, but a Thousand Worlds, had they been subject to his *Unlucky Administration*.

After the *Spanish* Monarchy had been dismember'd of the Kingdoms of *Ormus*, *Goa*, *Fernambuco*, and all the adjacent Countries of that vast extended Coast in the *East-Indies*; had lost *Brazil*, and the Islands of *Terceras*; the Kingdom of *Portugal*; the Principality of *Catalonia*; the County of *Roussillon*; all *Burgundy*, *Dole* and *Bisanzion* excepted; *Esdin* and *Arras* in *Flanders*; many Towns in *Luxemburg*, *Brisac* in *Alsace*, and likewise saw the Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Sicily*, with the Dutchy of *Milan*, in a distracted Condition: After having lost in the Ocean and Mediterranean Seas, 200 Sail of Ships, and the Subjects, Clergy as well as Laity, drain'd of 216 Millions of Gold by Donations and Taxes of the Count's inventing, Part of which immense Sum was expended on Armies ever defeated, and Fleets dispers'd and scatter'd, and Part unjustly sunk in the Purses of publick Robbers, Governours, Generals, and other Ministers,



*sters, his Creatures, either by Constancy, or a servile Dependance :*

After all these *Oppressions* and *Losses*, 'tis no wonder, if the *harrafs'd People* ardently wish'd to see their *Calamities* redress'd, by *his Ruine*, who had been the Author of them; the *Glory of the Empire* raised by *his Fall!* the *King* honour'd by *his Disgrace!* and *Tyranny* fetch her last Gasp, in a *Total Reform of Government*. For it seem'd, as if Nature itself, relenting at such Variety of Misfortune, had resolv'd to put an End to *those extravagant Abuses*.

By a Turn therefore of Providence, which ever has a compassionate Regard to the Distressed, a Chain of lucky Incidents seem'd to concur in the Discovery of these *Abuses*, at a Time when the Kingdom was reduced to the lowest Ebb.

The *Queen*, whom the Count held in so great Contempt, and the Countess her first Lady of the Bed-chamber, in such Subjection, that tho' she bore the Title of a Sovereign, yet she felt all the Miseries of a wretched Slave; for the Favourite had possess'd the King with a Notion, *That Monks were to be regarded only for their Prayers, and Women for Propagation*: She, I say, us'd often to complain of her insupportable Affliction to the Countess of *Paredese* her Confidant, whenever the Favourite's Lady permitted her the Opportunity



nity to communicate the Sense she had of her Misfortunes, which the irretrievable Loss of so many Provinces vastly increas'd; for she was more touch'd with these Losses, than with the Contempt shewn to her Person; and used to say, the Justice of her Designs, and the Innocence of the Prince her Son, would one Day release them from that Tyranny, and prove to his Majesty a truer Prospective than he then us'd: For thro' that he could see nothing which was not for the Interest of the Count and Countess; with this, he would see the Reason of his Son's Complaint, who, if no further Care was taken, would be left perhaps a despicable King of *Castile*, or forc'd to retire with the Fortune of a private Gentleman.

The Queen was of Opinion, that the only proper Time to open his *Majesty's Eyes to these Grievances*, was when he went to the Army in *Catalonia*; from which Journey the Count foreseeing his own Destruction, endeavoured by all possible Means to dissuade him. Her Majesty hoped for two things from the King's going to the Camp. The first was, that as he must necessarily give Audience to others beside the Count (especially to the General Officers) he could not so effectually stop his Majesty's Ears, as he did at *Madrid*, however assiduous he might be; and

and as he was generally hated, it was not impossible, but that some one or other, would lay before the King those Calamities which had too evidently flown from his Favourite's despotick Government. The other was, that she being left at *Madrid*, with the Title, at least, of *Regent*, would have an Opportunity of displaying those Talents wherewith God had blessed her (which happened accordingly) and by gaining the King's good Opinion, she hoped to open to her self a larger Field to lay before him the Justice of her Complaints.

But the *Count*, who was ever circumspect, and extremely attentive to what regarded his own Interest, baffled the first of her Majesty's Views, by making this Tour, rather an Airing to the King, than a Journey: For he gave him the Diversions of *Aremquez*, the Entertainments of *Cueva*, and the Recreation of Hunting at *Molina d'Arragon*. Afterwards, having couped him up in two wretched Chambers in *Saragossa*, without ever seeing his Army, which was composed of 30000 Men, the finest Troops that *Spain* ever saw before that time; the poor King led the Life of a Recluse, without daring to stir abroad; the Count having terrified him with the Danger of being made Prisoner by the *French*, who were Masters of *Monzon*, and all the Country on that Side.

While

While the King was thus in a Manner Prisoner, and had no other Diversion than that of looking out of a Window, to see Tennis play'd, the Count, attended by Twelve Coaches, and 200 Foot and Horse, commanded by his Son *Don Henry*, used twice a Day to drive thro' the City, and take the Air of the Country: Thus none could obtain any other than a publick Audience of his Majesty; and none were admitted even to that, but such whose Persons and Business the Count was well before acquainted with. The *Spanish* Grantees, who at a great Expence, and no less Fatigue, came to pay their Duty to the King, were not only deny'd a private Audience of his Majesty, but, as if they had been Gentlemen of the lowest Class, found a great Difficulty to obtain it of the Minister; and they complained loudly, that he had not paid the Visit of their Welcome to Town, to any one of them, which, according to the *Spanish* Decorum, was due to their Rank. Thus the first Hopes of the Queen were defeated.

But her Majesty succeeded perfectly well in the Second; for by quitting her *Spanish* Gravity, and assuming the Affability of *France*, she visited all the Guards in and about *Madrid*, discours'd with the Officers, enquired into their Pay, and encourag'd them to be chearful in the King's Service:

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She



She took Care, that strict Justice should be administer'd, gave frequent Audience to All, after the most engaging Manner possible; she raised, and sent to the King, large Sums of Money, and in every Respect behaved so well, that she gained the general Applause of the People, for the best Queen that ever *Spain* was blest with.

The Fame of her Majesty's good Sense and Conduct, which had been so many Years buried, reached the King, who heard it with so great Satisfaction, that he could not help giving her the Praises due to her Virtues, even in the Presence of the Count, who, dissembling the Mortification, coldly joined in the universal Applause of her Majesty.

The King being return'd to *Madrid*, the Queen had Opportunity, and wanted not Matter, to discourse the King on the Affairs of the Empire: The universal Character she had gain'd for her Knowledge in Affairs of State, made easy Way for it, and her giving an Account of her Regency of Nine Months (for the King was so long absent) gave her a fair, open Occasion to observe to him, *the Loss of so many Countries, the Defeat of his Armies, the Scarcity of Money, and the daily Complaints of his Subjects.* But that his Majesty should not imagine these Remonstrances proceeded from her known Aversion to the Favourite, the  
Queen



Queen (as it was before concerted, in order to carry on an Affair of this Importance) having broke the Ice, corroborated her Informations by those of the first Ministers, who had engaged to assist her Majesty with the greatest Sincerity, whenever an Opportunity favour'd them.

The Chief of these, was the Count *Castiglia*, who, tho' of a severe and cynical Disposition, was reputed a Person of the greatest Probity; and as he had the principal Share in the Administration under the Queen, during the King's Absence, was thoroughly acquainted with the whole State of the national Affairs. Upon these Two Considerations, he was of such Weight with his Majesty, as was necessary to incline the Balance. This Nobleman gave readily into the Queen's Measures, both as he was zealous for the Publick Welfare, and Brother to the *Marquis del Carpio*, who had married the Count's Sister, to whose Family he he was so averse, that he disinherited *Don Lewis de Haro*, Son to the *Marquis del Carpio*, and his own Sister, in Favour of a reputed Bastard Son.

The King, by frequent Remonstrances, was at length thoroughly convinced, that by continuing the Count in the sole Administration of his Affairs, he ran an evident Risque of being dispossest'd of all his Kingdoms.

The Consequence of this Disposition in his Majesty, was a visible Coldness towards the Count, to whom he was so far from shewing any Marks of his former Tenderness, that from time to time he reproach'd him, sometimes as an *Evil Counsellour*, at other times, as *Unlucky*: From whence, the Count plainly foresaw what would happen; and being desirous to know the King's Mind, he twice begg'd Leave to lay down and retire (but this was rather to try the Ford, than pass the River) alledging, that it was impossible for any one to be more vigilant, or take more Pains than he did in his Majesty's Affairs; but that if every unhappy Accident was to be charg'd to the Account of his *Ill Fortune*, he would, if his Majesty pleas'd to permit him, retire from Business. To which the King answer'd briskly, It behoves us both, Count, to make some Redress of such Grievances. Mean while, it was whisper'd at Court, that the Favourite stood on a Foundation, which was so far sapp'd, that the least additional cross Accident would prove his Fall. As this was attributed to the *Queen*, the Tongues of all grew lavish in her Praises, and said, the Safety of *Spain* was owing to the Queens of her Name; for *Isabella* of *Portugal*, Consort of *John II.* by destroying the insolent *Alvaro di Luna*, released the Kingdom

dom from the Tyranny of his *Profuse* and *Vain-glorious Administration*. *Isabella* of *Castile* used to tell her Royal Consort *Ferdinand* the *Catholick*, that in a Court there ought to be no other *Favourites*, than the King Favourite to the Queen, and the Queen Favourite to the King; adding, that it was the Duty of a Subject to obey, That of a Sovereign *only*, to command; and as no greater Good could possibly happen to *Spain*, than the depriving the Count of his Authority, so they could expect so great a Blessing from no other Hand than that of a third Queen *Isabella* of the House of *Bourbon*.

After the Favourite had receiv'd this Shock from the Interest of the Queen, it pleas'd Providence to join the Simplicity of a common Gentlewoman, *Donna Anna Guevara*, to compleat his Ruin. She had suckl'd the King, and was recommended to that honourable Emyloy by the Duke of *Lerma*, and till the Count came into so great Favour, was always esteem'd and respected at Court, as his Majesty's Foster-Mother. But then, all Favour flowing thro' the corrupt *Canals* of the Count, and the Ladies having much more Regard for the Countess's Nod, than the Queen's Commands; as all who were of the Duke of *Lerma's* Party were suspected as Opposers of the Count's Interest, this Lady, on Account

count of the Tenderness his Majesty express'd for her, was look'd upon as the most dangerous to do them Prejudice with the King. They contrived to have her removed from Court with an honourable Pretence; but she however often visited the Queen, whose Apartment was always open to her, and where the King sometimes saw her, and did her the Honour to entertain her in particular. One Day, whether guided by her Zeal for his Majesty's Service, or stimulated by the Desire of revenging the Affront the Countess had put upon her, in procuring her Dismission, which broil'd within her; she, about Three of the Clock in the Afternoon, the Time his Majesty usually visited the Queen in her Apartment, placed her self in the Way, that she might have Opportunity to speak to the King, alone; but she took her Stand so near to the Queen's Chamber, that her Majesty might distinctly hear all that pass'd. Then throwing herself at the King's Feet, she protested she came not to beg any Favour for herself; that she had no Interest but in common with the rest of his Majesty's good Subjects; but being prompted, as it were, by a maternal Affection, she came to reveal to his Majesty what perhaps none else, in regard to their private Interest, would dare to attempt. Upon this, having Leave from the King to speak her Mind with



with Freedom, she gave him a lively Description of the *Oppressions of his People*, the *Abuses in his Revenue*, the Loss of Towns and Provinces, and all the Disorders in his Empire: Adding, that his Majesty ought to look upon those Afflictions as the Judgments of God, which he had brought upon himself, by leaving to another the Government of those Kingdoms, which God and Nature had committed to his Charge, to the Dishonour of his Royal Dignity, the Grief of his Nobles (whose Hearts he had alienated by subjecting them to an *Equal*) and forcing them from Court, where *Corruption* was so flagrant, that the *Ability to purchase*, not the *Capacity to discharge*, Places of Trust, was the only Question; by which Means, Persons of Rank were depriv'd of their Birth-right, and his Majesty of faithful and able Ministers. That the smallest Office was put to Sale, either by the *Minister* or his *Creatures*; which occasioned intolerable Exactions, and was an insupportable Burthen upon the People, who had no Hopes of Relief, but from his Majesty's exerting himself, and doing Justice to his Subjects, by asserting his Royal Dignity. That it was now Time his Majesty should be *Out of Ward*, and not farther provoke the Anger of the Almighty, by suffering his People to continue longer under the *Tyranny* of a *Fellow-Subject*, who multiplied their Oppressions

sions to *swell his own Fortune*, and *aggrandized his Family* by the *Destruction of the Kingdom*. That he ought to take Compassion on his own Son, the Heir apparent to his Dominions, who, if not timely prevented, would be forc'd to retire with the Fortune of a private Man. She concluded with protesting, That if the Freedom of that Remonstrance had offended his Majesty, she was ready and willing to undergo any Punishment; and as she had nourish'd him *with her Milk*, would think it an equal Happiness, *by her Blood*, to preserve to him his Kingdom. The King heard her with Patience and Attention, and said to her, *Aveis hablado verdades*, You have spoken Truths; and in very deep Thought entered the Queen's Apartment, into which *Donna Guevara* follow'd him.

Some Ladies of the Queen's Chamber (among whom was *Giovanna di Velasco*, Wife to the Count's Bastard) overheard this Discourse, which *Donna Guevara* held with the King, and it was supposed, from the Melancholy which the next Day was visible in their Looks, that she had acquainted her Father-in-Law and Husband with it.

This Action of *Donna Guevara* gained her universal Esteem: They called her a second wise Woman of *Tekoah*, who inclined the Heart of *David*, when the wisest

wisest, and most powerful of his Court, found all their Endeavours vain.

The *Infanta Margarita* of *Savoy*, Duchess of *Mantua*, was a third Person who acted a considerable Part in the Catastrophe of the Count's Tragedy. Her Highness had been kept at *Occagna*, sequester'd from the Court, that the Affairs of *Portugal* might be entirely conceal'd from the King. But she, pressed by Want (for in Seven Months she had not received one Penny of the Provision made for her) came unexpectedly to *Madrid*, where she had been a Month. Her Arrival was so disagreeable to the Count, that he could not dissemble his Displeasure, but received her after a very shocking Manner, and, in his Discourse, treated her very contemptuously: And tho' her Highness arrived in the Evening, fatigued with the Cold, Rain, and other Inconveniencies of her Journey (for she had Six Ladies in the Coach with her, having neither Coaches, nor any other Conveniencies of her own) he made her wait Three Hours in the Palace, before any Apartment was appointed to lodge her in. At length, he ordered her to be conducted to the Gallery, which fronts the *Incarnation*, and there allotted her Three miserable Rooms, with naked Walls, and such poor Furniture, as was hardly fit to receive the Wife of a common Labourer.



The *Infanta* left *Occagna*, rather like a Fugitive than a free Princess; for she departed thence at Three in the Morning, having secretly prepar'd what little Necessaries she could for her Journey, fearing, if the Governour of the Town should get any Notice of her Design, he might prevent her by Force, as it afterwards appear'd he had Orders to do from the Count. For Five Hours after, being acquainted of her Departure for *Madrid*, and despairing of overtaking her, he dispatch'd away a Courier to the Count, who arriving but One Hour before her, gave him no Opportunity to prevent her coming. The Count had many Reasons for his Aversion to this Princess. The chief was his irreconcilable Hatred to the House of *Savoy*, the only Fault which descended to him from his Predecessors in Favour, the Dukes of *Lerma* and *Vineda*, the declar'd Enemies of that Family.

The first Ground of the Enmity of the *Spanish* Subjects to the Princes of *Savoy*, was the innate Pride of the *Spanish* Grandees, and the insufferable Insolence of Favourites, which render'd that Respect and Distance they were obliged to shew to that House, on Account of its being of the Blood Royal, an insupportable Mortification to them.

But



But the Reason of the Count's particular Hatred to the *Infanta Margarita*, was on this Account. She had been continu'd, it seems, for Seven Years, Vice-Queen of *Portugal*, tho' only with the empty Title. The *Marquis de Puebla*, Brother of *Leganez*, was set over the poor Lady in *Lisbon*, as a Governour, without whose Approbation she could neither speak nor look. Her Secretary, *Vasconcello* (who by a cruel Death in a rebellious Tumult, receiv'd the just Reward of his extravagant Insolence) was the Disposer of all her Actions, and the other Ministers were so many Spies placed about her Highness, to penetrate, if possible, into her very Thoughts. In *Madrid*, the Superintendency of the *Portuguese* Affairs was given to *Diego Suarez*, who was both Brother-in-Law, and Father-in-Law to *Vasconcello*: In short, whatever regarded that Kingdom, was under the Management of Persons of the same Stamp.

But the *Infanta*, with a more than feminine good Sense and Prudence, foreseeing the Disorders which ensu'd, and the Precipice to which she was hurrying, wrote to the Count, and gave him early Advice of the ill Situation of Affairs; at the same time modestly complaining, that she was only a Titular Regent, without having the least Shadow of Authority.

His Answers were at first couch'd in very fair Terms, tho' they prov'd otherwise in the Consequence; for *Suares*, his Creature, grew still more insolent to her Highness, and so far lessen'd her Authority, that she became contemptible even to the *Portuguese* themselves.

Hereupon her Highness thought fit to alter her Measures, and, instead of writing any more to the Count, she address'd herself directly to the King; but notwithstanding the repeated Advices she sent of the Duke of *Braganza's* Design to seize on the Kingdom, she never receiv'd any Answer.

These Affronts which the Count, without any Reason, put upon the *Infanta*, oblig'd him to look upon her as an implacable Enemy, thereby verifying that Diabolical Maxim among the Great Ones, *That he alone who does the Injury can never forgive.* Wherefore, it is no Wonder that the Count, after her Highness's Return to *Castile*, did, by all possible means, endeavour to prevent her seeing, or having any Audience of the King; that he should keep her at a Distance from *Madrid*, and shut her up in *Merida* and *Occagna*.

But that the Oversights of the Count, and the *Infanta's* good Conduct may appear in a true Light, as to what regards the Revolution in *Portugal*. I shall beg Leave to make a little Digression.

The

The *Portugueze*, after the Death of their King *Don Sebastian*, whom they superstitiously believe to be still alive, had so invincible an Aversion to the *Spanish* Government, that, after Mass and Sermon, the Clergy would publickly exhort the People to say two *Ave Maria's*, to the End, that God and the Blessed Virgin might deliver them from the *Castilian* Tyranny. They waited for any Opportunity to revolt, and even the least Pretence (thro' their ardent Desire to rebel) was magnified as a Cause sufficient.

In the Year 36, the new Exaction called *The Fifth* (because Five *per Cent* was raised on all Merchandise) caused a Rising of the Inhabitants of *Algarbes*, who thought this an unreasonable and an unjust Demand; and it's certain, that, had not the *Infanta's* Prudence stifled this Tumult in the Beginning, it would soon have overspread the whole Kingdom. The *Algarbes* is that Tract of Land, which stretches along the Sea-coast from *Seville* to the Confines of *Lisbon*.

This Affair occasion'd some serious Reflections on the pernicious Designs of the *Portugueze* to withdraw themselves from their Subjection to his Majesty; and it was therefore resolv'd to lay hold on all favourable Opportunities to prevent a Change. The Rebellion of *Catalonia* in 39, furnish'd the Government with a very specious Pre-



Pretence for their Designs; for, under the Colour of preparing for War against that Principality, the Count gave out with a masterly Cunning, that, in the Beginning of the Year 40, the King would set out in Person to chastise and reduce the *Catalonian* Rebels. Wherefore, all the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Nobility were required to repair to *Madrid*, Four Months after the Intimation given, to wait on his Majesty in that Expedition, every one according to his Rank.

The Design of this Declaration was to draw the *Portuguese* Nobility, especially the Duke of *Braganza*, out of the Kingdom; for they took him to be the sole Hopes of the *Portuguese*, who had promis'd to acknowledge and set him up for their King, on those ancient Pretences which are known to all who have read the Histories of *Portugal* and *Castile*.

The Duke of *Braganza*, who was no Stranger to the Inclinations of the *Portuguese*, nor the Jealousies of the *Castilians*, that he might give no Encouragement to the former, nor Ground of Suspicion to the latter, retired to *Villa Vitiosa*, the Metropolis of his Duchy, where having no Correspondence with the Nobility, nor interfering in the Publick Affairs, he passed his Time in the Diversion of Hunting.

Mean

Mean while, the Chief of the *Portuguese* Nobility went to *Madrid*, the Duke of *Braganza* excepted, who did not undertake the Journey tho' solicited by the Count in a very particular Manner, and with large Offers. The Duke had Two Reasons to dissuade him from going to Court. The first was the Unwillingness of the whole Kingdom to see him in the Power of the Count, whose good Faith they had Reason to suspect. The Second was, he apprehended he should not be admitted to those Honours about his Majesty's Person which his Ancestors and all the Grandees of *Spain* enjoy'd, especially that of sitting in Publick under the King's Canopy, a Privilege which the House of *Braganza* esteem'd above all other Honours they enjoy'd.

The Duke, without mentioning either of these Reasons, excused his not going to *Madrid*, by alledging, that his Estate was so far exhausted, that he could not make a Figure equal to his Quality; and therefore judg'd it more expedient to serve his Majesty in *Portugal*, during the Absence of the rest of the Nobility, than to appear among the Grandees with an Equipage unbecoming his Character.

This Answer encreas'd the Count's Suspicions, who was resolv'd to make use of his accustomed Arts, fallacious Allurements, and

and empty Promises; and to guide this Affair, which was very tender, and needed the finest Glozing, with the most profound Diffimulation; what Management could be more subtile than the following? He wrote to the Duke, that he was intirely satisfied of his Good-will, and after some Complements which express'd an equal Affection for his Person, and Concern for the unfortunate Situation of his Affairs, he let him know, that his Majesty was not only satisfied with his Stay in *Portugal*, but that he had moreover, as a Mark of the great Confidence he repos'd in him, given him the Command of the Army in *Portugal*, requiring him to draw nearer to *Lisbon*, and chuse for his Abode what Place was most agreeable to him near that City; and that he might want nothing to support the Dignity of his Character, had made him a Remittance of Twenty Thousand Pistoles.

Those who take things by their first Appearances only, look'd upon this Proceeding of the Count so strange, and so disadvantageous to the King's Interest, that they publickly condemn'd it, and said, this was throwing him no less than a Kingdom for a Bait, without a Hook to it; the making him quit his Solitude at *Villa Vitiosa*, to reside, as it were, in the Suburbs of *Lisbon*, whose Citizens had the  
 Inte-



Interest of the House of *Braganza* so deeply engrav'd on their Hearts, was giving new Life to their Hopes, and a fresh Spur to their Desires, of seeing one Day a Prince of their own Nation fix'd upon the Throne: And finally, that the Count had now put the Crown of *Portugal* into his Hands, who had long secretly aspired to it. But this was a Master-piece of the Count, who had often boasted, that crafty Allurements had ever been of more Use to him, than open Threats. The Count had no Design to put any Trust in the Duke, but only to engage to himself a Confidence from him, in order to which, his placing him in the Neighbourhood of *Lisbôn*, and pretending to be satisfied with his Stay, in *Portugal*; the giving him the Command of the Army, and remitting him a Sum of Money, were such Things as might have lull'd the Duke into a Security, if his Knowledge of the Count's Artifices had not kept him continually upon his Guard. The *Infanta*, who, as Vice-Queen, was answerable for the Administration of all Affairs, was extremely surprized to see so fair an Opportunity given the Duke of *Braganza*, to break out into open Rebellion, and wrote several Letters to his Majesty full of Complaints and Remonstrances on that Head. The Answers she receiv'd were very cold, and like the Oracles of the Ancients, full

of Ambiguity. But the Surprize of her Highness was vastly encreas'd, when, without her Knowledge, she saw the *Castilian* Garrison (at a time when the Security of the Kingdom depended on the Fidelity of those Troops) drawn out of the Cittadel of *St. John*, which commands *Lisbon*.

These were the Count's last Efforts to quiet the Duke's Suspicions, and that he might in time more effectually lull him into Security, he mention'd no more of his coming to *Madrid* till the Year 41, when he again invited him by Letters full of the most endearing Expressions. He highly extoll'd the Duke's Fidelity, his Diligence in what regarded the Command of the Army, and the happy Effects of his Authority with those of his own Nation. He then laid before him the imminent Dangers which threaten'd the *Spanish* Monarchy, by the Disasters in *Flanders*, the Misfortunes in *Italy*, the Preparations of the *Turks*, and above all, from Two such cruel Enemies, as the *French* and *Catalans*, who had already entered the Kingdom. That the Welfare of the Empire depended on the Expulsion of these; and if the Nobility and Grandees did not exert themselves, and use their utmost Efforts in the present Exigency, for his Majesty's Service, he gave All for lost. That, as the Duke was at the Head of the Grandees, he might by his  
Pre-

Presence, and the Number of his Followers, shew a powerful Example to the rest of the Nobility, and after so many Misfortunes and Losses, at length become the principal Means of Crowning his Majesty's Arms with Success. That the King therefore impatiently waited his Arrival at Court, to reward his Fidelity, and to do him those Honours, and raise him to such Posts, as were answerable to the Greatness of his Birth, and every way agreeable to his extraordinary Merit, and his Majesty's Esteem.

The Duke, tho' not reputed a Man of any Parts, yet managed his Affairs with such Judgment, that (ordering the Army at *Tarragona* to be recruited with a considerable Number of his own Vassals and Adherents) playing Artifice against Artifice, he handsomely avoided his appearing at Court.

Then he wrote to the Count in Terms which (in every thing) spoke his Compliance; for he was not strong enough to take other Measures, and with mutual Dissimulation, gave him all possible Marks of a singular Regard and Confidence.

The *Infanta*, who had an Eye upon all these Proceedings, and from her daily Observations foresaw what would follow; dispatch'd away several warm Letters both to the King and Favourite, declaring,



that the entire Loss of the Kingdom of *Portugal* must necessarily ensue.

But the King gave her no Answer, and the Count treated her as a Person much fitter for the Government of a private Family, than a Kingdom; and signify'd to her, that if she could not dive into the Mysteries of State, it would not be taken ill, if she sav'd herself the Trouble of writing any more on a Subject she did not understand.

The *Infanta* was therefore oblig'd to remain a Spectator of the Revolution of *Portugal*, as known to all the World, which was effected by those very Measures that were taken to continue and secure that Kingdom under the *Spanish* Government. The Count, who was in the greatest Confusion, to see his own Schemes turn'd against him, and all his Artifice baffl'd, himself outdone in Dissimulation, and overreach'd by a Man, to whom he would hardly allow a moderate Share of common Sense, found Means to throw the Loss of *Portugal* entirely on the ill Management of the *Infanta*; and as he was conscious, that he was himself the sole Author of that Misfortune, he strenuously endeavour'd to prevent her Highness from clearing herself to the King, who, if he did not suspect her Fidelity, entertain'd however a very mean Opinion of her Capacity.

The

The *Infanta* having got safe out of *Portugal*, which she look'd upon as a very great, nay, a miraculous Deliverance, dispatch'd a Courier to the King, to intreat the Honour of being admitted to kiss his Hand. The Count not only opposed this, but sent her Orders from his Majesty to stay at *Merida*, tho' it was in the Season of the Dog-days, when the Heats there are much more intense, than in any other Part of *Spain*, which threw her into a long and violent Fit of Sickness, and to the inexpressible Satisfaction of the Count, her Life was despair'd of. But what added to this Barbarity, was, that he left her without either Coaches, Horses, Mules, or Litters; Necessaries! which the meanest Servant about the King's Person is intitl'd to, and which, he very well knew, the *Portugueze* had taken from her.

However, she repeated her Sollicitations so often with his Majesty, to be removed from the Intemperature of the Air of *Estremadura*, that she was at length permitted (as an especial Favour) to reside at *Occagna*, tho' with all the Miseries and common Wants of a Slave; for she was not only without Equipage, but (having never received the Three Thousand Crowns a Month, his Majesty was graciously pleas'd to appoint her, the first two Payments excepted) she wanted the common Necessaries  
of

of Life; for her Major-dome was obliged to beg her Support at the Houses of private People, and at the Convents of *Oc-cagna*; but they growing tired, the extream Necessity she was put to, made her take the Resolution of privately going to *Madrid*.

If we consider all Circumstances, we must admire the particular Providence of God in the Conduct of these Affairs; for those very Methods which the Count took to oppress the Duke of *Braganza*, were the only Means that raised him to that Throne, which was indisputably his Right; and by his compassing to destroy the *Infanta*, he run headlong on his own Ruine.

Her Highness arrived at Court that very Day his Majesty began to examine into the Count's Management: Her Arrival was extreamly welcome to the Queen, who (tho' the Count endeavour'd to prevent her having a private Audience of the King, to discredit her in the Council of State, and never once, to the great Surprize of the whole Court, went to wait on her) invited her to, and kept her in her own Apartment, that she might speak to his Majesty, of whom, she obtained an Audience of Two Hours, tho' not without some Trouble; first, in getting rid of the Countess *Olivarez*, who, foreseeing the Consequence, impertinently enough endeavour'd to be present.

She



She began with her Thanks to God for delivering her from the *Portuguese* Tyranny, and allowing her once more, after so many Sufferings, to appear before his Majesty, and to prove her own Innocence, by laying the Crimes she was charg'd with to the true Author of them. She gave his Majesty a short Account of the *Portuguese* Affairs; shew'd the Minutes of the Letters she had wrote, and the few Answers she had receiv'd: In a Word, she clear'd herself so thoroughly, that the Loss of the Kingdom of *Portugal* was thrown entirely, if not on his premeditated Design, yet on the Inadvertency of the Count, and his stubborn Conceit. The Queen did not fail enlarging on all the *Infanta* had advanc'd, and they together made so deep an Impression on the King's Mind, that we may say, this was a finishing Stroke to the King's Favourite.

The *Grande*s, in general, concurr'd in the Count's Fall, and 'tis possible, that their withdrawing from Court, and their Silence, proved more efficacious in his Ruine, than all the Remonstrances of others. For no sooner had the Count been declared a Favourite, but he assumed the Regal Authority, by so much the more contemning his Master's Dignity, as he found him susceptible of his Insinuations, and obedient to the Caprice of his Humour.

He

He kept him constantly ignorant of the Affairs of his Kingdom, except where he thought it his Interest to be communicative. None but his own Creatures were allowed about his Person, and it was impossible for his Majesty to see or hear but with the Organs of the Count. Swell'd with the Presumption of his own superior Genius, this would not satisfy his Ambition, for he thought he did not shine with sufficient Lustre, nor the King's Favour secur'd to him, if, like another *Tarquin*, he did not abase, since he could not lop, the *Poppy-Heads*, or *Grandeess*. The Ruine of the House of *Lerma*, which from being the Favourites of Two Princes, were fallen very low, (excepting Two Branches, the Duke of *Offuna* and *Infantado*, who by Marriage sprung up under other Titles) was no *Herculean Labour*, [and compass'd with a little Trouble.

He was violent against the House of *Toledo* (who were respected, both for the Antiquity of their Nobility, and the good Service they had done the Crown) without any known Reason; and caused *Don Falarique*, who was of the elder Branch, to be banish'd the Court, for some Freedoms of Speech, which he was intitl'd to by his Birth. This Person soon after broke his Heart, being unable to survive the Injunct of the Affront.

The

The Duke of *Alva*, Master of the Household to his Majesty, chose rather to retire from Court in his last venerable Years, than pay a servile Submission to the Nod of a Favourite.

The Duke *d'Isar*, for whom the King had a particular Esteem, as well on Account of his Illustrious Birth, as his uncommon Virtues, was, under Pretence of *Honourable Employments*, kept far from Court, lest his Presence should kindle that Esteem into an Affection.

The Duke of *Maguede* was represented as a Debauchee, the Duke of *Lemos*, as a Driv'ler; The Duke *Fuensalida* as ignorant, *Altamira* phlegmatick, and all the rest useless.

In the Count's Opinion, none were worth the Title of Grandee, or of his Favour, but *Monterey* and *Leganez*, who from an obscure Birth, and very slender Fortunes, were rais'd to that prodigious Height of Honour, as to be made Governours of *Milan* and *Naples*, and became flagrant Instances, how far *Avarice* and *Profuseness*, when supported by Power, will carry Men, in squeezing and extorting from the most Miserable.

These Two were the Favourites of the Count, and the *Spanish* Thunderbolts of War: The one sent to lavish away the Treasures of *Portugal* in Plays and Luxu-



ry, the other, to ruine and starve the Army in *Catalonia*, by his Villainy and Avarice.

The Indignities put upon the Grandees, and the little Regard shewn them by the Count, especially their contemptuous Reception at *Saragossa*, caused them so entirely to abandon the Court, that when the King dined in publick, went a Hunting, or to Chapel, not one of the Grandees was seen with him; and even on the Day of the *Nativity*, the *Count de Colomba* was the only one who sat on the Bench of Grandees in the Royal Chapel; which was taken Notice of, as very strange and surprizing.

At the time the Count began to lessen in his Majesty's Favour, the King observed, that the Grandees shew'd him but little Respect, and did not as formerly pay their Court to him. He asked the *Marquis de Carpio* the Reason of this, who, unwilling to slip the Opportunity, when the King had put the Sword in his Hand, resolved to make use of it against his Enemy, and therefore answered his Majesty, That the Reason was too obvious; the Count saw them with an evil Eye attending on his Majesty, and they judged it more prudent to deny themselves that Honour, than, by falling under any Suspicion, give him an Opportunity of letting them feel the Effects  
of

of his Jealousy. This Answer was a great Shock to a Person already tottering in Favour, and on the Point of Falling.

The King wrote the same Day to the Council of War, requiring an Account of the State of the Army in *Catalonia*, and to know what Methods were to be taken for raising Money and Recruits for the ensuing Campaign. The Council answer'd his Majesty, that the Army in *Catalonia*, which consisted of 30000 Men, was reduced to Five; and that there was an absolute Necessity of its being fresh recruited; for the *French* threaten'd some great Enterprize in the Spring. As to the Affair of raising the necessary Supplies, they left it to the Council which the Count had form'd for that Purpose, and of which *Monterey* was President. The King enquired of this Council what was to be done? and they giving him an Account of many Difficulties, or rather Impossibilities, which occur'd in the raising of the Six Millions that were demanded, they being assured but of One, which the Council had promis'd; his Majesty nettled with this Answer, said, *Ay, in an Affair of this Consequence!*

What follow'd this at *Segovia*, is thought to have forwarded the Favourite's Disgrace. Six Men in Masks, and by Night, forced into the Governour's House, who seeing, and believing them to be Thieves, in the

Apprehension he was under, offerr'd them all his Money, and whatever else he had of Value in the House, to save his Wife's and Daughter's Honour. One of them answer'd, that they did not come into his House, with a Design to rob or injure him, but to do the King Service; and giving a Paper into his Hands, bid him, if he valu'd his Life, to make the best of his Way to *Madrid*; to set out that Instant, and give the Paper to his Majesty, and not to the Count, because it contain'd Secrets of the greatest Importance to his Majesty's Service, and the publick Good: Neither would they part with him, till they saw him on Horse-back, and set forward for Court, threatening, that if he did not perform what they gave him in Charge, as a good Servant, and faithful Officer of the King, his Life should pay for his Failure. He arrived at *Madrid* on the Night of the Day following, had a particular Audience of the King, and was by him remanded to his Government. None could ever penetrate into the Contents of this Paper; but by the Manner of its being sent, the Charge given to deliver it into the King's own Hands, and not to the Count, to whom it was the Custom to address every thing which regarded the publick Affairs, and the threatning the Governour with Death, if he did not punctually comply with these



these Orders, makes it reasonable to conjecture, it contained something to the Count's Prejudice.

To these we may add another Step not less efficacious towards the Disgrace of the Count. The *Marquis de Grana*, who inherited all the Virtues of the Illustrious House of *Carretti*, and was remarkable for the most generous Oppeness and Sincerity, came the foregoing Year Ambassador from his Imperial Majesty to the Court of *Spain*. He was well known before to the Court by his Bravery and Conduct in military Affairs, which had distinguish'd him many Years in *Italy*, *Germany*, and *Flanders*. This, with his other excellent Virtues (for he was a Scholar and a Courtier likewise, and spoke Five Languages as well as his Mother-Tongue) gained him the Esteem of all who knew him, the Count excepted, whom the Freedom and Ingenuity of his Opinion in Affairs of State, which proceeded from his Love of Truth, and Zeal (as Minister of the Emperor) for the Interest of the House of *Austria*, made his inveterate Enemy. The Count's Ears were too much accusom'd to the Smoothness of Adulation, to bear the Harshness of honest Truth, supported by the Strength of sound Argument, and the Exigency of things. This Aversion of the Count to the Marquis, lay smother'd for  
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some time, but it broke forth at last, in a Council held at *Molina d'Arragona*, to which the Ambassador was call'd by the King's express Command. The Question debated in the Council was, Whether his Majesty's Stay in *Castile*, or his Journey to *Arragona* would be most advantageous to the publick Affairs? The Count was the first who spoke to it, and gave his Opinion for the King's continuing in *Castile*; this all the rest of the Council assented to, and *Gioseppe Gonzalez* made a long Harangue (as his ordinary Custom was) to prove the Solidity of the Count's Reasons. The Ambassador was the last who spoke, and was of a quite contrary Opinion, and proved by irrefragable Arguments, that there was a Necessity of his Majesty's going to *Arragona*. The Favourite and the whole Council, were so nettled at a single *Italian* Cavalier's pretending to contradict the Oracular Sentiments of the Count, to which all *Spain* was accustomed tacitly to subscribe, that, contrary to the Regulations of the Council-board, where every one has the Liberty to give his Opinion without Replication, *Gioseppe Gonzalez*, a Prelate of the Count's raising, took upon him, with some Warmth, to answer the Ambassador, and, in his Discourse, treated him as one ignorant in Matters of this Nature. The Marquis was a little ruffled  
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at this Usage, and reply'd, that, as a Licentiate, he allowed him to understand *Bartholomew* and *Baldwin* much better than he did; but that in advising a great Prince, in what regarded the Conduct of War, it was the Part of Generals, and Men of Birth, as he hoped to be allowed, and no Way belonging to a musty Divine, as *Gonzalez* was: For Lessons of War were to be studied in the Field, not in the Closet. The Count, and all the *Spaniards* of his Faction, greatly resented the Reply of the Ambassador, and gave him the Nick-name of *Drunken Socrates*. Notwithstanding which, the King rejected the Count's, and adhered to the Ambassador's Reasons, which he would have in Writing, and to the Count's very great Mortification, publickly approved them. This turn'd the Favourite's former Hatred into an implacable Rage, which made him give the Ambassador all the Trouble possible, and, right or wrong, thwart him in all Affairs. In a Word, he gave him so much Uneasiness, that the Marquis fell sick with the Vexation, and not without Suspicion of Poison, of which he was advised by an anonymous Letter. Wherefore having obtain'd the King's Leave, he return'd to *Madrid*.

It happen'd, about Twenty Days after the Marquis had retired to *Madrid*, that the Great Protector of Truth and Innocence



cence put an Occasion into his Hands of humbling the Pride of this haughty Favourite: For the Emperor had wrote a long Letter to the King of *Spain*, in which, after he had excused his not being able to comply with his Promises, the Arch-duke having lost the Battle of *Leipsick*, he begg'd his Majesty to consider in what an ill Posture the *Austrian* Affairs were, and that without some immediate Relief, their Ruine was inevitable: That he would maturely reflect on the Character, Quality, and Talents of that Minister, whose Administration had lost him the Kingdom of *Portugal*, the Principality of *Catalonia*, several other Provinces and Towns in *Europe*, and a vast Dominion in the *Indies*, and afterwards take such Measures as were agreeable to his Majesty's known Wisdom, and the Practice of his Royal Predecessors.

The Letter came to the Ambassador without a Seal, together with Instructions of what he was farther to add on that Subject. He communicated both to the Queen, and when he deliver'd the Letter to his Majesty, he had a private Audience of upwards of an Hour.

To all these Motives, which followed one on the Neck of another, in a very few Days, to shake the King's Affection, we may add this last and greatest. The Prince of *Spain*, tho' in the Fourteenth Year of his

his Age, had as yet no Family appointed, but, to every one's Surprise, was still continued under the Government of the Ladies. The King had long desired he might have a settled Family, and a Retinue answerable to his Dignity: But the Count had always found Means, by one Pretext or other, to delay the Matter, for the Two following Reasons. He knew his Royal Highness had a great Vivacity and Quickness, and was afraid he might discover abroad, what he took Care his Father should not penetrate at home: But while he continued under the Care of the Countess *d'Olivarez* his Tutress, he would imbibe all his Maxims from her. The Second was, that his Bastard Son *Don Henriquez* might have time to get the better of those vicious Habits he had contracted by the vile Company he had formerly kept, and his own viler Inclinations, by Means of a Marriage with the Constable's Daughter, and obtain the Habit of a Commander of *Calatrava*, and the Presidentship of the Council of the *Indies*, which he was on the Point of gaining.

But on the very Day of the *Nativity*, when this mighty Favourite receiv'd a Shock, the King, at her Majesty's Request, made himself a List of the Servants he had chosen for the Prince's Household, and order'd the Count to see, that nothing necessary might be wanting. The Count ob-

jected to a great many of this List, rejecting many more than he approved, which was very unpleasant and grating to his Majesty, who concealed in his Heart the most bitter Resentment against him, on Account of the Discoveries had been made to him. His Majesty then asked him, what Apartment he thought was the properest to be allotted for the Prince's Family, being willing to hear his Sentiments on that Head. Upon the Count's answering, none was so fit as that which the Cardinal Infant before had; the King said, *Don't you think there's a much better, the Apartment destin'd for the King's eldest Son, and the same which both my Father and I had while we were Princes?* The Count was struck with his Majesty's Question, and look'd upon it as the Beginning of his Disgrace; and indeed this Piece of Insolence was a Spur to the King's Resolutions.

For that very Night the King wrote to him with his own Hand, commanding he should meddle no more in publick Affairs, and should retire to *Locheches*, till farther Orders; but as it may be some Satisfaction to the Curious, to be somewhat particular in this last Scene, which we may call, the agonizing Minutes of the Count's Power, on his giving up the Ghost of Favour; I will give a Diary from that Night, which was the Vigil of the Eve of St. *Anthony*,  
of



of every thing worth Notice, to *Friday* Se'nnight following; which was the Period to which his Authority languish'd.

The Count, on reading the King's Note, was in a Manner thunder-struck; for he was some time motionless with the Surprise; however, he obey'd, and as soon as he had recover'd his Spirits a little; went to *Locheches*; whence, on his Arrival, he dispatch'd a Courier to his Lady, who carried the King's Billet, thinking none so proper to communicate his Grief, or disburthen his Mind to. The Countess receiving her Lord's Orders, set out next Morning, before Break of Day, for *Madrid*, bewailing all the Way her Misfortune, to the Great Surprise of her Attendants. She and the Count had a private Consultation of Two Hours, after which she went directly to speak to the King, from whom she had a very cold Reception, a resolute Answer, and a speedy Dismission. In the Evening of the same Day, *Friday*, she went to the Queen's Apartment, and throwing herself at her Majesty's Feet, begg'd, in Consideration of the Count's long and faithful Service, she would take him into her Protection and intercede for him to his Royal Master. The Queen answer'd her in very few Words, which were, That what Providence, in Compassion to the Subjects, and Mismanagements of the

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Count

Count had done, was neither in the King's, nor her Power to undo.

This was still a Secret to all the Court, excepting *Don Lewis de Haro*, till *Saturday*, when the King sent him to the Count for Papers relating to some private Business. This Gentleman was the Count's Nephew, but so little in his Favour (if not really hated by him) that he never sent him the customary Complements of Condolance on the Death of his own Sister, Mother to the said *Don Lewis*, who died but few Days before. Notwithstanding which, he behaved himself in this Misfortune of his Uncle, after a very generous and noble Manner; for he threw himself on his Knees before the King, and entreated, that since the Count's Dismission was irrevocably decreed, that yet his Majesty would be so gracious, as not to precipitate him at once from that vast Height of Favour, but allow him an easy Descent, and suffer him, in his Disgrace, to experience that Moderation and Clemency which had ever endear'd his Majesty to his Subjects, and permit him to continue Three Days in the Palace, to be present for that time at the Councils, and give Audience in his own private Affairs.

His Majesty was pleas'd to grant yet more; for he permitted the Count to overhaul all his Papers, and to burn what-  
ever

ever he thought might rise up in Judgment against him, which was an Excess of Goodness that many could not approve of.

On *Friday* there was a great Levee at the Count's, but it was given out he was very much indispos'd, so that he saw no body, and dined privately in his Bed-chamber,

On *Saturday* Morning, the King commanded him to send the Key of his private Apartment, by which he had at all times Admittance to his Majesty's Chamber. The same Morning he desired Audience of the King, which was granted him, but in publick, the Patriarch and several Lords of the Bed-chamber being present. In this Audience, it was remarkable that his Majesty, who always fix'd his Eyes on the Person who address'd him, did not so much as once cast them upon the Count, while he spoke, but turn'd 'em to different Objects, shewing very little Attention, and less Satisfaction. Leaving the King, he went in to one of the Councils, where he behaved himself with a more than common Haughtiness and Superiority, and treated the Two Secretaries with so much Contempt, that one of them said, after his Departure, *Que Diabolo tiene el Conte en la Cabeza, nos a tratado como trapos viejos?* What the Devil has the Count got in his Head? he has used us as if we were



were old Rags? The same Day, in the Afternoon, some Ambassadors demanded Audience of him, but were put off with the Excuse of his Indisposition.

On St. *Anthony's* Day, in the Evening, the Count's Disgrace was made publick, and the News was received with an universal Joy. The next Morning (such was the Hatred of the People to him) the following Lines were found pasted on the Palace-Gate:

*On St. Anthony's Day God was restor'd,  
And the Devil cast out by our Sovereign Lord.*

On the *Sunday*, when the News of the Count's Removal was confirm'd, there was so great a Joy shewn throughout *Madrid*, that if it had not been moderated by the Fear of his working himself into Favour again, by his insinuating Arts, the whole Town would have made a publick Festival; but even as it was, the Bakers and Fruiterers, in Token of Satisfaction, gave their Goods, that Day, *gratis*, to all Comers.

On *Monday*, when the King, Queen, Prince, *Infanta*, and the Duchess of *Mantua*, went in the same Coach to the *Carmelites*, they were surrounded and followed by a prodigious Multitude, with Acclamations of, *God bless the King for the Good he has done, and confound all wicked Ministers*. But it would be impossible to recount  
the

the many particular Instances of the People's Joy. In every Face appear'd an Air of Satisfaction ; and private Misfortunes were lost in the publick Good ; as if the Count's Disgrace had brought a Salve for every other cross Accident of Life. Each Man hail'd his Comrade, on the joyful News, and every Mouth was fill'd with Blessings on the King and Queen, and with the Praises of *Donna Guevara*.

*Tuesday*, the Countess endeavour'd, by all possible Submission to his Majesty, to regain Favour for the Count, but in vain ; which made him conceive an implacable Hatred to the Queen, whom he look'd upon as sole Author of his Disgrace. However, as the King was that Day gone for the *Escorial*, he behaved himself in the Council, and in the Audiences he gave, after a manner which intimated his Countess had succeeded with the King, and that he no longer apprehended his Dismission. This struck such a Damp to the general Joy, and gave such Uneasiness and Jealousy to her Majesty, that on *Wednesday* Evening, she wrote to his Majesty in very moving Terms.

*Thursday*, a Body of the Grandees went a League out of Town to meet his Majesty in his Return, who seeing them, asked what extraordinary Accident had happen'd at *Madrid*, that obliged them to come in  
so

so great a Body. *Don Malchior de Borgia* answer'd, *That the Time was at length come when they might be permitted to shew their Devotions to the Crown of Spain; and if formerly they had not comply'd with their Duty in attending his Majesty, the Reasons were obvious, and could not be unknown to him.*

At the King's Arrival at the Palace, when he alighted from the Coach, the first Question he asked was, if the Count was gone? and being answer'd in the Negative, he turn'd to *Don Lewis de Haro*, and in an angry Tone, said, *Que aguarda el hombre la fuerca?* Does this Man stay to be thrust out? This being told the Count, pierc'd him to the Heart, and convinced him, that he was irretrievably lost; wherefore he seriously prepared for his Departure, and spent all that Night in examining and burning his Papers.

The next Day, *Friday* Morning, he endeavour'd to have an Audience of the King; whether it was allowed him, or not, is unknown; but 'tis certain, that about One o' Clock the same Day he left *Madrid*. The Seven Days he had deferr'd his Departure, seem'd so many Ages to the People, which Impatience they signify'd by the following Distich fix'd on the Palace Walls:

*Bos-*



*Bosphore, redde diem; quid gaudia nostra  
moraris?*

*Ecce Comes cecidit ! Bosphore redde diem.*

The Count, who knew how odious he was to the People, and justly apprehending their Insults, made use of the following Artifice for his Safety. The Day before, he had ordered Three Coaches, and a great Number of Mules, to wait at the Palace Gates, as if he was upon the Point of going; the same Equipage waited for him on *Friday*, but he went the back Way by the Kitchens, and got into an old scurvy Coach, with only Four Mules, and placing himself like a Malefactor going to the Gallows, between two *Jesuits*, with the Curtains drawn, he drove off, and took down *Antocha* Street about the same time that his Family, in Coaches cover'd and lin'd with Velvet, parted from the Palace Gates. The Mob believing he was in one of these, discharg'd a Shower of Stones upon them; and to quiet the People, they were oblig'd to convince them by ocular Demonstration, that the Count was not in any of those Coachies.

This Resentment proves, that the Populace are not Strangers to the Authors of their Oppressions, and that if they do not Justice to themselves, by their Destruction, it is only for want of Power, not of Inclination.

clination. They are not the insensible Animals which a Favourite, puff'd up with the Pride of his exalted Station, imagines them to be: Nor is such a one, even in the Meridian of his Power, otherwise skreen'd from the Resentment and Revenge of the oppress'd and despis'd Plebeian, than by his Loyalty and Submission to his Sovereign. Men can't bear to see themselves transferr'd like Properties, and *that* Obedience which they acknowledge to their Prince, made over to an Equal, who not knowing how long he may reign, will be sure to make the Publick subservient to his particular Interest, and to *aggrandize his own Family*, give up whole Kingdoms to Want and Misery.

By the above Precaution, he arrived in Safety at *Locheches*, a Village of his own, having about Eighty Houses, Four Leagues from *Madrid*, on the left of *Alcale*, where the Countess had built a Convent for *Dominican* Monks, the most commodious, and most magnificent in all *Spain*.

The Countess remain'd some few Days at Court, after his Departure, as Governess of the Prince and *Infanta*, but without any Access to her Majesty, or having the least Court paid her, as the Consequence of her Husband's Disgrace. Wherefore she desired to be dismiss'd, and went to share his Misfortunes, who had shared with her  
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his exorbitant Power, and unprecedented Favour, for the Space of Twenty Two Years.

Thus ended, to the general Satisfaction of all, who did not partake with him in the Spoils of the harrass'd and oppressed Nations, the *Unfortunate Administration* of *Don Gasparo di Guzman*, Son of *Don Enrico Count d'Olivarez*, born in *Rome*, during his Father's Residence in that City, as Ambassador from *Philip II.* to his Holiness. His being born in *Nero's* Palace, was look'd upon as an unhappy Presage; and indeed the most penetrating among the *Spanish* Wits used to call him a *Nero* mask'd, from the Bent of his Inclinations; for his Actions were cruel, tho' not bloody; his Measures violent, but secret; his Behaviour courteous, but void of Friendship; and his Promises fair, without Effect. As he was the third Son, he applied himself to his Studies in the University of *Salamanca*, where he was esteem'd a Man of Learning among the most learned, and had a Canonicate in *Seville*. At the time that the Duke de *Lerma* was declining in the Favour of *Philip III.* and *Balthazar de Zuniga* was in Power; by accommodating himself to the Genius of *Philip IV.* then Prince of *Spain*, and by his insinuating Arts, he found no Difficulty to work himself in-



to his Favour, and gain the entire Mastery of his Will and Affections.

When that Prince succeeded to the Throne, the Count found Means to establish, and secure to himself the Continuance of that supream Favour to which he was raised. He took Care to keep the Princes of the Blood, especially the Prince of *Savoy*, at a Distance from the King; and he is tax'd with compassing the Death of the *Infant Don Carlos*, who was the Idol of the *Spanish* Nation, fearing he might be one Day prejudicial to his Interest. He sent the *Infant Cardinal* far from his Majesty, under the Pretence, that his Presence was extreamly necessary, both in the Wars of *Germany*, and for the Government of *Flanders*. A great many *Grandeess*, and others of Quality, whose Interest or Knowledge gave him the least Umbrage, he provided with Posts, which obliged them to be absent from Court, and vilified the Dignity of those who remained, by raising the very Scum of the People to equal Titles, and giving them Posts in the Government vastly superior; by which Means, having nothing to fear, he became the Arbiter of *Spain*, and sole Disposer of the King's Will; but as he could neither by divine or human Laws, separate his Majesty from the Queen, it pleas'd God, after Twenty Two Years Suffering, to enable her to per-

perform what probably the united Force of all his other Enemies could not have effected.

The Count was so cautious in regard to Bribery, that no one could ever tax him with receiving any Present; for he thought *Clean Hands* the best Foundation for his Master's Favour. But some who examin'd nicely into his Conduct, would not clear him of *Corruption*; and said, it was owing to his *Management*, that he was not accus'd of it: For he had a *MAN*, who was the *Conduit-pipe* of his Favours, and to whom every Candidate, even for the meanest Office, address'd himself, and bargain'd for the Purchase. Besides, he had many ways of getting Money, without making an *Eclat*.

First, he enjoy'd the *Commendams* of the three Orders (tho' himself was only of that of *Alcantara*) which brought him in 40000 Crowns a Year. He declared himself Master of the King's Chamber, Great Master of the Horse, and Great Chancellor of the *Indies*, which brought in the yearly Value of 200000 Crowns.

But what was infinitely more advantageous to him, was his sending by the Gallies, whenever they went from *Seville* or *Portugal* for the *Indies*, a great Quantity of Corn, Wine and Oil, which he drew from his County of *Olivarez*, and having the Freight free (which was no inconsiderable Article)

Article) he sold at 400 *per Cent* Advance on the prime Cost. This he had remitted in such Druggs, Jewels, and Dying Colours, as bear the greatest Price in *Europe*, tho' bought at low Rates in the *Indies*; by which Traffick it was supposed, at a moderate Computation, that he got a Million of Crowns. Beside all this, he never *gave any Account during his long Administration*, tho' he alone had the Disposal of the publick Money, a great-Part of which was probably expended in *Secret Service*.

We shall now take a cursory View of the Consequences which attended this Great Man's Fall.

The first was, the King's asserting his Royal Prerogative, and thereby recovering the Affections of his People, to whom, by his tame Compliance with the Count's arbitrary Will, he was become even contemptible; for they look'd upon him only as a Cypher added to encrease the Value of *One* Figure in his Court, *viz.* the Count *Olivarez*, who was King *de facto*, his Majesty *de nomine* only. Merit soon began to shine forth, and Posts were fill'd with Men of Probity and Capacity, of which the People felt immediately the good Effects; for those in Employment paying nothing for their Places, they were not (as formerly) under the Necessity of *squeezing* others, to be reimburs'd their *Purchase-Money*; but being  
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contented with the *lawful Emoluments* of their Places, there was an End at once of all Villainy and Oppression.

The King, the next Day after the Count's Departure, called a Council in his own Apartment, where he made a Speech so pathetic and moving, that he drew Tears of Joy from the Eyes of every one present, and raised in them an Admiration of those excellent Talents he had so long conceal'd, by an overweening Fondness for a Favourite, and an implicit Deference to his Judgment. He told them, he had dismissed the Count from all publick Employments, not for any Crime he could charge him with, but purely for the Ease and Satisfaction of his People. That he took for granted, the Consideration of the many Services he had done to the Crown of *Spain*, during the Space of Twenty Two Years, with unexceptionable Fidelity, would plead for him with every good *Spaniard*; but protested, for the future, that he would admit no Servant to be distinguish'd by the odious and ungrateful Appellation of *Favourite*; that he would be present at every Council, and suffer no Dispatches to be made, which should not pass thro' his own Hands. That he hop'd they would be assisting to him with their Advice, which he desired they would give as faithful Servants to him, and steady Patriots of their Country, unbi-  
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as'd either by Fear or Flattery ; and then he did not question but to restore a just and equitable Administration of Affairs, and redress Grievances, if any were complained of. That as nothing was more difficult for a Prince to learn than Truth, so he could not help admonishing them a second time, to declare their Minds to him in all publick Affairs, with that Freedom which was necessary ; and assured them, as the Exercise of that Virtue would conciliate his Love and Favour ; so on the other Hand, he would severely punish such as should endeavour to impose upon him by Falsties.

The next Day, the King called before him all the Gentlemen of his Chamber, of whom a considerable Number were Grandees, and after he had done them the Honour of calling them his faithful Subjects, good Friends, and Cousins, and commended their Diligence in what regarded his Service, he commanded them severally, not to apply themselves to, or make any Interest with any of the Counsellors of State, to procure any Post or Favour ; for it was not just, he said, that their being placed so near to his Person, as made them his Familiars, should influence the Ministers in Prejudice to distributive Justice : That whatever they could require of a Counsellor, he permitted them

to ask of him, if it did not regard the immediate Affairs of the Council; and they might expect he would grant them any Favours consistent with the publick Good: But he advised them, if they would draw down the Blessing of God, and continue his Favour, to recommend none for any Charge, either Ecclesiastick or Civil, who was not fit for it, as well in respect of his Capacity and Merit, as the Probity of his Life and Manners.

These Resolutions of his Majesty being made publick, gained him the entire Affection of his People, and the Character of a wise and just Prince.

The same Day, the Apartment of the late Cardinal Infant was richly furnish'd for *Don Hernando de Borgia*, and his Deputy. It belong'd to the former, as first Gentleman of the Bed-chamber (on the Dismission of Count *Olivarez*, who held that honourable Post) to give the King his Shirt.

Two other desirable Consequences of the Count's Disgrace, were the calling to Court those Noblemen whom this Favourite had discountenanc'd or banish'd, and the turning out those Ministers who were his Creatures.

The Duke of *Ferrandiana*, who was General of the *Spanish* Gallies, had been arrested and detain'd in *Conchione*, being  
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charg'd with a Neglect of Duty in the Siege of *Tarragona*. He used all possible Endeavours, and employ'd all his Friends, to obtain the Liberty of clearing himself to his Majesty, offering to give up his Life and Fortune, if he did not prove his Innocency; but all was in vain, the Count had barr'd all Avenues to the King: He was now admitted to Court, and made it appear he had not taken one Step but by the Count's Directions under his own Hand, which he had punctually observed; and justified his Conduct, by producing that Minister's Orders and Letters which he had sent him.

The Duke *d'Alva*, who under Pretext of commanding the Army on the Frontiers of *Portugal*, was (in Reality) banish'd the Court, the Count being jealous of the Esteem his Majesty had for him, was recalled, and made Master of the Household. All the rest of the Grandees who had been disgrac'd, soon appear'd again in their former Lustre; and whereas, some were kept from, and others cautiously avoided coming to Court, during the Favourite's despotick Reign (that being at an End) they were now seen in great Numbers attending the King when he din'd in publick, or went to the Royal Chapel, to the unspeakable Satisfaction of all Ranks and Degrees.

On the contrary, the Prothonotary, the Secretary *Garnero*, and *Gioseppe Gonzalez*, who did all the Count's dirty Work, their Patron lost, were turn'd out of all Employ, neglected, despis'd and insulted by those whom they once thought it beneath them to speak to.

*Don Diego de Arco de Bernoto*, Bishop of *Placenza*, supplied the Places of those. He had formerly been Auditor of the Royal Council, but was too penetrating and too honest to be approved of by the Count.

A farther Effect of the Count's unexpected Fall, and which perhaps touch'd him the most sensibly, was the Degrading of his Legitimated Bastard, who was no longer thought worthy the Honours to which his (reputed) Father had raised him.

How much the *Spanish* Nobility were degenerated, is visible from this Affair; for the *Grande*s who remain'd at Court, the Men of Quality, and all who either had, or hoped to have any Part in the Government, waited on *Don Henry* with an Obsequiousness which render'd them despicable in the Sight of all Men of Spirit. None gave him any other Title, than that of *Excellency* (which answers to *Right Honourable* in *England*) or tender'd any Services less than those of their Lives and Fortunes. There was not a Poet (I

mean of Quality) who did not sing his Praise : As for those who, by their Wit and Poverty, had a juster Claim to *Parnassus*, they had too much Love for their Country to offer Incense to that *Idol*, but expos'd and lampoon'd him with the justest Satire, tho' they were assur'd that Goals, Pillories and Fines, would be the Consequence.

This Grandeur sat very awkwardly on *Don Henry*, and the Baseness of his Birth would often break thro' and shew it self, whence the Fable of the Cat changed into a Woman was often applied to him.

The Count gave him a House fit for the Son of so great a Favourite, and furnish'd it after so sumptuous a Manner, that no Grandee in *Spain* had any thing comparable to it. Every Kingdom and Province in the *Spanish* Dominions made him Presents, among which, that of the the Duke *de Medina las Torres* was the most valuable, for it was computed at 25000 Crowns. But all this was no Consolation to the Constable, who by consenting to this Match with his Daughter, tho' constrain'd to it, had so disobligh'd his Family, that not one of his Relations would visit him.

In *Saragossa*, *Don Henry* had the Order of *Alcantara* conferr'd on him, with a *Commendam* of 10000 Crowns ; he was declar'd



declar'd Gentleman of the Bed-chamber,  
 with a Promise of the Presidentship of the  
*Indies*, which the Count of *Castile* was  
 deprived of, that he might, by these Posts,  
 make way with a better Grace to that  
 of being Governour to the Prince. In the  
 mean time, the rank Hatred of the Peo-  
 ple to *Don Henry*, who could not lay  
 aside those mean Ways he had been ac-  
 customed to by the Vileness of his former  
 Company, and the Want of Education,  
 was often shewn by the Satyrical Papers  
 fix'd at his Gate, of which I shall men-  
 tion One or Two, for they would col-  
 lected make a small Volume.

*Here dwells a poor Scrub, tho' of late a great  
 Lord,*

*In a Ribbon ty'd up, in lieu of a Cord:  
 His Father forsooth, or his Father suppos'd,  
 Whose Anger is kindl'd, his Orders oppos'd;  
 The Idol set up, bid Spain to adore him,  
 The Fiat once heard, and all fell before him.  
 No Isra'lite zealous, no Shadrach was found,  
 Spain heard the Command, and bow'd down  
 to the Ground.*

*Two Wives and Two Fathers, with Riches  
 in store!*

*The Devil take him who can askee for  
 more.*

This

This Adoption of a supposed Son, exasperated the House of *Carpio*, who were cut off from the Succession to their just Right.

After the Count's Fall, *Don Henry* lost not only his Title of *Excellency*, but the large Train of Flatterers which us'd to croud his Levee: And 'tis wonderful to see those very People who courted his Favour, so soon ashamed to own his Acquaintance, and trample under Foot the Idol to which they so lately offerr'd Incense.

The Constable immediately set about proving *Don Henry's* first Marriage good, and procuring his Daughter's Divorce; and when a Friend of his advised him not to prefer his Resentment to his Daughter's Reputation, he reply'd, *I had rather my Daughter should be look'd upon as mine, tho' with the odious Character of Whore, than to be esteem'd vertuous, and continue the Wife of that Scoundrel Don Henry.*

But that which was of greatest Consequence to the Publick, by the Dismission of the Count, was the King's serious Application to Business, his constant Presence in Council, where he commonly pass'd Three or Four Hours every Day, and the suppressing the Junto's, which render'd the Privy-counsellours meer Cyphers; for in these, whatever was determin'd in Council was new modell'd, according

according to the Humour or Interest of the Count or his Favourites.

*Leganez* and *Monterey* were brought to Account, the former for Fourteen Millions he had drein'd from the State of *Milan*, and the latter for Four Millions he had squander'd the foregoing Year in *Estremadura*, while he was General of an unactive Army.

The Government of *Naples* was taken from the Duke *de Medina las Torres*, and the pestiferous Crew of the Count's *Jackalls*, his Flatterers, and servile Ministers, gave Place to Men of Publick Spirit, and Probity. Ignorance, Tyranny, Extortion, and private Views, vanish'd with the Count; and the King taking into his Hands the Reins of Government, restored Liberty, Plenty, Justice, Prudence and Tranquillity: All Murmuring ceas'd, the People chearfully obey'd, a Scene of Happiness was open to their View; *Spain's* former Genius began to rise, and from being the Contempt, became the Terror of her neighbouring States, and shone out in the dazzling Brightness of her ancient Glory.

**F I N I S.**



